

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NEA-10 EA-11 H-02 SS-15 NSC-10 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 915

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION BERLIN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 16024

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XG

SUBJECT: FRENCH VIEWS ON SUPPORT OF RFE- RL

REF: STATE 107371

1. ACTING DCM CALLED ON QUAI DIRECTOR FOR EUROPE DE MARGERIE JUNE 8 TO DISCUSS USG REQUEST FOR GOF SUPPORT OF RADIO FREE EUROPE- RADIO LIBERTY RESEARCH PROGRAMS AS WELL AS FRENCH NON-GOVERNMENTAL BACKING OF RADIOS' OVERALL ACTIVITIES.

2. ACTING DCM DREW EXTENSIVELY ON PARA 3 REFTEL TO UNDERSCORE:
A) IMPORTANCE USG ATTACHES TO OBTAINING CONTRIBUTIONS BY EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS TO RFE- RL RESEARCH; B) HOPE THAT GOF WILL ENCOURAGE NON- GOVERNMENTAL DONATIONS TO RADIOS; AND C) US JUDGEMENT THAT RADIOS HAVE POSITIVELY CONTRIBUTED TO EAST- WEST DETENTE-- A MAJOR OBJECTIVE OF OUR EUROPEAN ALLIES LONG CHAMPIONED BY FRANCE ITSELF.

3. DE MARJERIE SAID HE WISHED TO STATE OFFICIALLY THAT HE WILL
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BRING OUR REQUEST PROMPTLY TO THE ATTENTION OF GOF OFFICIALS CONCERNED. HE WILL STRESS THAT USG ASKING FOR FRENCH SUPPORT OF RESEARCH, NOT BROADCASTING, PROGRAMS AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF PRIVATE SUPPORT TO RFE- RL. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, HE SAID HE HAD LONG RESPECTED " THE VERY HIGH QUALITY" OF RFE- RL RESEARCH. HE CALLED HAVING COMMENDED RFE- RL RESEARCH RESULTS TO HIS COLLEAGUES YEARS AGO, WHEN HE SERVED AS QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR USSR- EE AFFAIRS. WHILE SERVING AS FRENCH DCM IN WASHINGTON LAST YEAR, HE ONCE TOLD A MEMBER OF SENATOR FULBRIGHT' S STAFF IN WASHINGTON " WHAT A MISTAKE IT WOULD BE" TO DISCONTINUE SUPPORT FOR THESE RAADIOS.

4. ON THE OTHER HAND, DE MARJERIE CANDIDLY STATED USG SHOULD NOT HOLD OUT MUCH HOPE FOR POSITIVE GOF RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST. HE CALLED ATTENTION TO FRANCE' S POLICY OF STRICT AVOIDANCE OF ANY INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF USSR AND EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. WHILE HE RECOGNIZED DISTINCTION BETWEEN RADIOS' BROADCASTING AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES, HE PERSONALLY THOUGHT ANY OFFICIAL FRENCH SUPPORT FOR RADIOS WHATSOEVER WOULD INEVITABLY PROMPT DIFFICULTIES " IN PARLIAMENT" AND CREATE STRAINS IN RELATIONS WITH SOVIETS AND EAST EUROPEANS. THUS, HE COULD SEE LITTLE PROSPECT OF GOF HELP IN THIS MATTER.

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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